

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A high level disinfecting composition comprising [an] a buffered aqueous solution ~~having a pH less than 7 and which contains~~ containing a conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic dialdehyde in an amount effective to achieve high level disinfection as determined by the ability of said composition to kill all bacterial cells and spores in contact with said composition when exposed to said composition for a time and at a temperature sufficient to exert its biocidal effect, the aqueous solution being buffered to a pH of less than 7.
2. (currently amended) A high level disinfecting composition comprising [an] a buffered aqueous solution ~~having a pH less than 7 and which contains~~ containing an amount of conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic dialdehyde effective to achieve high level disinfection as determined by the ability of said composition to kill all microorganisms in contact with said composition within 30 minutes at 20⁰C, the aqueous solution being buffered to a pH of less than 7.
3. (original) A high level disinfecting composition of claim 2 wherein the bacterial cells are *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG.

4. (currently amended) A high level disinfecting composition of claim 2 in which the conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic dialdehyde has less than 8 carbons and at least one aldehyde group adjacent to a double bond.
5. (currently amended) A high level disinfecting composition of claim 2 in which the conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic dialdehyde is 2-butenedial.
6. (original) A high level disinfecting composition of claim 2 which further comprises surfactants, glycols, corrosion inhibitors, antioxidants, sequesterent, odor suppressants, dye and fragrance.
7. not elected.
8. not elected
9. not elected
10. (currently amended) A liquid sterilizing composition comprising [an] a buffered aqueous solution ~~having a pH less than 9 and~~ which contains an amount of conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic dialdehyde in an amount effective to ~~sterilization~~ sterilize as determined by the ability of said composition to kill all micro-organic spores in contact with said composition within 32 hours at 20⁰C, the aqueous solution being buffered to a pH of less than 7.

11. (currently amended) A sterilizing composition of claim 10 wherein the micro-organic spores are that of ~~of *Bacillus subtilis* and *Clostridium sporogenes*~~ *Bacillus subtilis* and *Clostridium sporogenes*.
12. (currently amended) A sterilizing composition of claim 10 in which the conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic dialdehyde has less than 8 carbons and at least one aldehyde group adjacent to a double bond.
13. (currently amended) A sterilizing composition of claim 10 in which the conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic dialdehyde is 2-butenedial.
14. (original) A sterilizing composition of claim 10 which further comprises surfactants, corrosion inhibitors, antioxidants, sequesterent, odor surpressants, dye and fragrance.
15. not elected
16. not elected
17. not elected